



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2015
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL



WORK SESSION 6 PM
(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Central Park Master Plan Discussion**
4. **Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Event Plan**
5. **Ingham County Parks Dog Park Proposal**
6. **Other**
7. **Comment**
8. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. March 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
 - b. March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.

10. Unfinished Business (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements - ICDC

11. Other Business (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a.

12. Discussion Items (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a.

13. Final Comments

- a.

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2015, Central Park Pavilion, Friend of the Park Ceremony
- b. Spring Cleanup, Saturday, April 25, at 9 am – 12 Noon, in Central Park and Nancy Moore Park
- c. Farmers' Market:
 - Winter Market – last one at Meridian Mall on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am – 2 pm
 - Spring Market – Saturdays, May – June 8 am- 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
 - Summer Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July-October, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- d. Recycling Event at Chippewa Middle School Saturday, April 25, 9 am – 2 pm
- e. Harris Nature Center Native Plants Day and Sale, Saturday, May 2, 9 am – 1 pm
- f. Meridian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Friday, May 15, 9 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- g. Celebrate Downtown Okemos, Saturday, June 6, 10 am – 11 pm
- h. Meridian Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 13, 9 am – 12 noon, Central Park Pond
- i. Music in the Village Concert Series starts Wednesday, June 17 at 7 pm, Meridian Historical Village
- j. Lake Lansing Band Shell Concert Series starts Friday, June 6, at 7 pm, Lake Lansing South
- k. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, June 28, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion

15. Public Remarks

16. Closed Session

17. Adjournment

Park Commission Meeting
April 14, 2015

WORK SESSION

- 3. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony**
- 4. Ingham County Parks Dog Park Proposal**

Proposed Dog Park Hike at Lake Lansing North

On Thursday, April 23 at 4:30 pm, Ingham Ingham County Commissioner Teri Banas, Ingham County Parks Director Tim Morgan and Ingham County Park Manager Pat Witte will be meeting at the Main Shelter at Lake Lansing Park North, 6260 E Lake Drive, Haslett, to hike over the area and discuss the proposed dog park. The Park Commissioners have been invited and are reminded to wear hiking boots.

2014 PARK VOLUNTEERS

The support and engagement from residents and organizations in parks and recreation programs is just one element contributing to the greatness of our community. The giving of time, money, and knowledge continue to strengthen the ties between residents, businesses and government.

FRIENDS OF THE PARK ADOPTION LIST

The following people live adjacent or near a park and have volunteered to provide stewardship activities and monitoring on a regular basis to help keep them safe and clean for the entire community. They have a direct connection to the Parks and Recreation Department to report vandalism, fallen trees or suggestions for improvements. Their involvement helps alert our staff by identifying and implementing necessary repairs. These individuals are true "Partners in Parks!"

Steve DeBrabander	Brattin Woods
Keith Hanna	Tacoma Hills
Rick Little	North Meridian Road Park
John Green	Hillbrook Park
Bobbie DuByne	Hillbrook Park
Terri McElhinny & Pat Bills	Ted Black Woods Park
Tim Potter	Ted Black Woods Park
Layne Cameron	Red Cedar Natural Area and Meridian Riverfront Park
Haslett Beautification Association	Planted and maintained the Marshall Park and Welcome to Meridian Township signs
Meridian Garden Club	Planted and maintained gardens in the Historical Village, the gardens in front of the Municipal Building and Claire Twohy Memorial Garden located in Central Park; donated and planted an Arbor Day tree in Village near the pond with a plaque
Martha Hentz/Chris Buck Family	Hartrick Park (Martha Hentz, Chris, Evan, & Phillip Buck) - Planted and donated flowers at Hartrick Park around flagpole and sign, trash pick-up
Jim and Lisa Bignall	Orlando Park
Allison and Russell Gallegos	Orlando Park
Eckhart Dersch	Provided reports on Ferguson, Wonch, North Meridian Road Parks to identify needed maintenance

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND SUPPORTERS

Dr. Maureen Sander	Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area lease and open space development rights easement
Eagle Scout Peter Miklavcic	Constructed boardwalk in Eastgate Park near the Harris Nature Center
Eagle Scout Ryan Nussdorfer	Constructed boardwalk in North Meridian Road Park
Eagle Scout Thomas Laub	Repaired and anchored existing footbridge in Legg Park
Bethany Riggs and Okemos Boy Scouts, #109 Rhonda Wuycheck Sherri Trezise Tina Kahn Larry Parker Kyle Lu Nancy Shannon Leonard Provencher Kimber Peterson & Okemos girl Scouts Craig Murray	Earth Day Clean Up in the Parks event volunteers on April 19
St. Luke's Church Faith Lutheran Church, and Haslett Community Churches	Park Pick-Up Palooza on September 6 (Victor Samuelson, Phil Deschaine, Bill Gohier, Jean Gohier, Barbara Reigle, Alanna Harvey, Tom Haas, Kim Huston, Sophie Kirchoff, Kurt Kirchoff, Joe Hess, David Arnosti, Dominic Arnosti, Heidi Bowers, Kadin Bowers, John Schleicher, Bob Nelson, Warren Heilman, Tammy Heilman, Jonny Farbro, Carolyn Fabro, Dave Russ, Aaron Irving, Darlene Wenner, Tom Chester, James Fackler, Addy Fackler, Brigetta Fackler, Asher Fackler, Gerry McNamera, A J McNamera, Becky Holnagle, John Holnagle)
135 Haslett Elementary School Students Grand Learning Network Land Preservation Advisory Board Mark Stephens, Vern Stephens	Design and installation of the Mary M G Helmbrecht Shoreline Garden around Historical Village Pond
Haslett Kiwanis Club	Hosted " Day of Caring " with Orlando Park Clean-up on June 21 (Alana Harvey, Bill Gohier)
Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC)	Donation for the Eleanor Luecke Memorial area in Central Park (concrete pad and checkboard table)
Dave Caszatt, Austin Brown Cathy & Max Lindquist, Dave Wearsch, Margo Smith, Frank Hatfield, Phil Deschaine, Rick Loftus, Tom Tederington, Tom Vogal	Cleared invasive plants and planting trees in Northwest Land Preserve and Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve

Deer Management Program	Managed deer harvest on 21 properties with 73 volunteer hunters: Aaron Rustad, Alan Franklin, Andrew Taylor, Ben Cummings, Billy Haskins, Brian Watts, Bruce Bussing, Chad Cannon, Chad Houck, Charles Otlewski, Christopher Wilcox, Conlan Adams, Dan Smith, Dave Hendersen, Glen Thomas, Jack Shull, James Hurst Jr., Jeff Neilson, Jeffrey Speer, Jeremy Kapalla, Jonathon Mayes, Justin Cook, Ken Phinney, Kenneth Plaga, Kent Bainbridge, Kim Emery, Kirk Schalau, Kyle Cook, Larry Harb, Layne Cameron, Lee Colony, Margaret Delong, Marvin Johansen, Matthew Cuthbert, Matthew Delong, Matthew Foreman, Matthew Prinz, Matthew Solit, Matthew Wesener, Max Miller, Michael Ellis, Michael Meade, Michael Pemble, Michael Reilly, Mike Kingsley, Mike Marinez, Nicholan Hallenbeck, Nicholas Jagan, Ray Nachreiner, Robbie Pairolero, Robert Alexander, Robert Fortino, Roger Cook, Ryan Brzak, Ryan Holem, Scott Davis, Scott Goldammer, Scott Vercruysse, Steve Potvin, Steven Busch, Thomas Forton, Thomas Porter, Thomas Taylor, Timothy Swartz, Tom Cannon, Trevor Arnold, Zachary Archibald, Stephen Moore
Steve Brunner	Maintenance and enhancements to the bicycle pump track in Eastgate Park
Lansing Oar & Paddle Club	Cleared branches and fallen trees from the Red Cedar River between Grand River Avenue and Dobie Road to improve recreational use (Jay Hanks, Rich Bailey, George Stockman, Don Potter, John Flaherty, and Tony Kuhlman)
Kyle Wilkins	Constructed Great Blue Heron display case at Harris Nature Center
Jasper Bergen	Planted 50 small Eastern Redbud trees along trails in parks in memory of her mother
Haslett Robotics Club	Trail maintenance in Legg Park (Todd Wilson)
Leslie Kuhn & Laurie Kaufman	Treated invasive species in Ted Black Woods; garlic mustard, phragmites and knotweed. Mapping/permitting/owner contacts and treatment
Larry Hennessey	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes and cleanup efforts at Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area
Gene Wasserman	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes in Meridian Riverfront Park and Hartrick Park
Patrick & Michelle Allen	Geocache liaisons for the parks – monitoring caches that have been placed in the parks
Georganne Withey	Fitness Over-50 Program Coordinator at the Meridian Mall

MSU Educating Student Athletic Trainers In Medicine (ESTIM)	Meridian Township Family Winter Sports Weekend Polar Bear 5K Race on January 26, 2014 (8 volunteers)
Kiwanis Club of Okemos	Managed youth fishing activity during the Meridian Heritage Festival, summer and winter fishing derbies; worked on the construction of the natural exploration area at the Harris Nature Center; donated \$1,000 to the HNC Foundation (Larry Bacon, Jim Decker, Al Wood, Dick Witter, Arnie Johnson, Paul Marttila)
Forest Hills Neighborhood Association	Spring Clean-up - Forest Hills Natural Area (Cecelia Kramer)
Kelly Colflesh	Assisted with maintenance around the Central Park pond to improve fishing access and provided assistance with annual fishing events
Brian Van Order Michigan Demolition and Excavation, Inc.	Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects including the Nature Exploration Area and numerous Eagle Scout projects.
Joe Pennoni Rapid Tree Removal	Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects including the Nature Exploration Area,
Harris Nature Center Foundation	Fund-raising efforts for the Harris Nature Center (Julie Moore, Tony Bauer, Jim Buscetta, Norman Granneman, Barbara Kissling, Michael Lenkowski, Mike McDonald, Patty Robbins, Robert Rusch, Roxanne Witcher) - 2014 accomplishments: – bus scholarships, planning and implementation of the Nature Exploration Area
Friends of Historic Meridian	Outstanding efforts toward growth and sustainability of the Meridian Historical Village and for providing meaningful and educational programs for youth and families; (Jane Rose, Executive Director; George Grettenberger, President)
Nokomis Learning Center	Supporting cultural activities and events that educate the community on Native American cultural history; Cooperative efforts with the Friends of Historic Meridian in organizing the Heritage Festival special event (Victoria Voges, Liz Gorecki, Brian Moore)
Meridian Senior Center Advisory Board	Provide input, direction and volunteer program support for the Senior Center. (Arnie Johnson; Peggy Frisch; Darla Jackson; Richard Fox; Jack Whitmyer; Maxine Harper; LuAnn Maisner; Jim Massa; Mary McNeely; Mildred Novotny; Janet Quenson; Cherie Wisdom)

DONATIONS

TC3	2014 Towar Teens and Summer Playground Program (\$6,000) Capital Region Community Foundation
Edgewood Village	2014 Towar Summer Playground Program (\$1,000)
Haslett/Okemos Rotary Club	2014 Towar Summer Playground Program (\$400)
Biggy Coffee	Donated coffee and hot chocolate for Polar Bear 5K Race (Keegan O'Connor)
Fireworks Celebration Contributors	Meijer - \$2,000 (Terry Cole, Cindy Nunn, Chris Wilson/Okemos Store) Douglas J Spa and Salons - \$2,000 (Douglas & Sharon Weaver;) Meridian Plumbing - \$2,000 (Craig Phillipich) The Hubbard Law Firm PC - \$1,000 (Andria Ditschman) WLNS TV 6 – in-kind advertising (Barbara Bruce) Culvers Butterburgers & Frozen Custard - \$531 (Cory Chavala) Eastside Tax and Accounting, LLC – \$250 (Thomas Johnson) Okemos Animal Hospital - \$250 (Nydia Alfonso) Ingham County Medical Care Facility and Rehabilitation Center - \$250 (Karen Webster)
Youth Scholarship Program	Kiwanis Club of Okemos (\$400); Brian Beauchine (\$304)
Kelly Colflesh	Donated tackle and bait; ongoing stewardship of Central Park Fishing Area in Historical Village, donated coffee and bagels for Winter Fishing Derby
Marilyn Aronoff	Donated to Dog Park Fund (\$211)

MEDIA CATEGORY

Dawn Parker	Consistent, timely reporting on park activities and special events that improve public awareness and interest of our parks and recreation facilities in the Towne Courier
HOM-TV Channel 21	For their dedicated efforts to promote the Meridian Township Park System by providing coverage of programs and special events for community viewing. Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director; Rob Gingrich, Senior Production Manager; and Lynn Meikle, Freelance Producer

2014 Park Friend of the Year

Park Commission Meeting
April 14, 2015

6. MINUTES

- a. March 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jaramillo, McDonald, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioners Deschaine, Stephens

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Due to the presence of the representatives from the Ingham County Drain
Commissioner's Office, agenda item #4 was moved forward to become agenda
item #3.

Under item #5, include item A, Adopt-A-Park discussion

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the work session agenda as
amended.

3. Hillbrook Park Proposed Drain Improvements

Project Consultant Team: Deputy Drain Commissioner Paul Pratt, Gregory
Lamkin PE, Alan Boyer PE from LSG Engineers and Surveyors, and Blair
Webster distributed information (copy in minute book) and offered the following:

The Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office is in the processing of
developing a plan to provide flood relief in the Nemoka Drain Drainage District.
The overall goal is to improve stormwater detention within the Nemoka Village
Plat and a relief line through the Benson Hills Apartment complex and Hillbrook
Park.

There are two options:

1. To install another pipe within the existing easement in Hillbrook Park
2. Develop a "daylighting" of the drain to mimic a natural stream channel within a
wider easement.

The Drain Commissioner would like to proceed with the daylighting option consisting of a natural channel that could serve as a pleasant water feature and dissipate high velocities of water that are causing erosion on both banks of the Pine Lake Outlet Drain into which the Nemoka Drain empties. The project would require an 80-foot wide easement through Hillbrook Park from the east property line to the confluence with the Pine Lake Outlet Drain. The project will have flatter slopes from the top to the bottom of the main channel and still allow for construction of a meandering "low-flow" channel within the limits of the main channel. This will decrease the velocity of the water flow and total energy in the system prior to meeting the flows from the Pine Lake Outlet Drain.

Discussion:

- If the daylighting drain is constructed, how will the existing pathway be addressed
- Will the Drain Commissioner's Office need an access trail through the Park to maintain the drain
- How often would the new drain need maintenance
- Will need assurances that the existing trail will be accommodated for in the plan to allow park users continued access to this area of the park

4. Central Park Master Plan Consultant Proposals

Director Maisner reported the proposals were received from Viridis Design Group for a project amount of \$14,000 and from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates (OCBA) for a project amount of \$14,450.

The Commissioners were impressed with each of the presentations and proposals and are comfortable with Viridis but believes O'Boyle would do a great job as well. The Commission seemed to slightly favor the public engagement proposal from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates.

5. Other

a. Adopt-A-Park

Director Maisner stated that Commissioner Deschaine spoke with her about wanting to be an advocate for park cleanup projects and getting the community more involved. He would like to reach out to community, scout and school groups to be more involved and assign them to a park. They spoke about the Friend of the Park program and updating the current guidelines. The Commissioners agreed that it was a good idea but that no formal Commission action was necessary.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Closed Session

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPERTY CONSIDERATION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission moved into closed session at 6:51 pm.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson,

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to open session at 7:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:01 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jaramillo, McDonald, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioners Deschaine, Stephens

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following items were removed from the agenda:
Item #5D, Public Hearing: Ferguson Park Extension/Grant Submission
Item #10D 2015 Grant Submissions: Ferguson Park Extension/Acquisition

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS
AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Presentations

- a. Ingham County Drain Commission (ICDC) – Hillbrook Park Proposed Drain
Improvements

Alan Boyer PE, from LSG Engineers and Surveyors is working with the ICDC on drain improvements to the Nemoka drain which runs adjacent to Hillbrook Park. The Drain Commissioner has determined that flood relief is needed in the Nemoka Drainage District. During the planning process, two options were considered: 1) additional underground piping or 2) a “daylighting” project consisting of an open meandering ditch approximately 60” wide. It is the Drain Commissioner’s recommendation to proceed with the daylighting option. The project would require relocation of the current easement and increasing it from 60’ to 80’ wide through Hillbrook Park from the east property line to the confluence with the Pine Lake Outlet Drain.

The Park Commissioners expressed concern for the existing trail system and impact to access.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Public Hearings

a. Meridian Riverfront Park/HNC Pavilion - Grant Submission

I. The public hearing open at 7:15 pm.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes to construct an accessible pavilion (24' X 44') near the Harris Nature Center building in Meridian Riverfront Park. The pavilion will roughly be located in the location of the existing pole barn. The pavilion will include a stone wall that will be used as extra seating.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Create a shelter (24' X 44') that will help expand environmental educational programs to include more interactive opportunities
2. Provide a community shelter for planned picnics and drop-in visitors
3. Provide a vital amenity along the recently established Red Cedar Water Trail

GRANT REQUEST

\$50,000, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

PROJECT AMOUNT

\$100,000

Scope Items for Grant

Pavilion structure, concrete slab, seat wall	\$85,000
Site preparation/base for concrete slab	\$12,000
Engineering fee	\$ 1,000
Accessible grill and picnic table	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
TOTAL =	\$100,000

II. Staff acknowledge received items of communications

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway read the following letters of support into the record:

Patty Robbins, President
Harris Nature Center Foundation

Margaret Holtschlag

Director of the BIG Lesson Programs
Clinton County Regional Education Service AGenday

Roxanne Truhn Witcher, Vice President
Harris Nature Center Foundation

Barbara Kissling
Harris Nature Center Foundation Member

III. Public comment

None

IV. Commissioners comment

Chair Wilson stated that construction of the pavilion will be a welcomed addition to Meridian Riverfront Park and the Harris Nature Center for shelter and activities.

Director Maisner stated that construction of the pavilion will allow for an outdoor picnic/gathering area as well as function as an outdoor classroom. With the inclusion of the live Red Tailed Hawk display, outdoor feeding area, 1/3-mile of paved trail system and new nature exploration area, this addition will greatly enhance visitorship

V. Chair declared public hearing closed 7:27 pm.

b. North Meridian Road Park Pavilion – Grant Submission

I. The public hearing open at 7:27 pm.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project proposes to construct a pavilion (24' x 34') with a concrete slab and internal pathways for accessibility. The pavilion will have a green, metal roof and wood truss ornamentation to match the existing restroom building.

PROJECT GOALS:

1. North Meridian Road Park is a very popular park in our community and these additions will provide necessary park amenities.
2. The proposed pavilion and pathways will open up the park to a broader range of users, thus allowing for an increased use of the already popular park nature trails and increased opportunity for wildlife viewing.

3. The pavilion will provide shelter and shade in an area that has virtually no shade at all.
4. Provide amenities to move the park toward a "four-season" facility.

GRANT REQUEST:
\$50,000, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

PROJECT AMOUNT:
\$100,000

SCOPE ITEMS FOR GRANT:	
Pavilion structure & slab	\$66,000
Engineering	\$ 5,000
Accessible pathways	\$10,000
Accessible grill	\$ 300
Site preparation	\$12,000
Accessible picnic tables	\$ 2,000
Electricity	\$ 4,000
Signs	\$ 700
TOTAL =	\$100,000

III. Public comment

None

IV. Commissioners comment

Chair Wilson stated when the restroom building was developed, we choose this type of structure in order to add a pavilion in the future. It is needed for this Park.

Director Maisner stated sand volleyball courts are in the process of being constructed there to complement existing soccer fields, sledding hill and play structure. This Park is in need of shade.

VI. The public hearing closed 7:32 pm.

c. Hillbrook Park Tennis Court Renovation – Grant Submission

I. The public hearing opened at 7:32 pm.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- Renovate the existing two tennis courts and the attached half-court basketball area.

- Process: The existing asphalt courts will be pulverized, re-graded, and compacted. New acrylic colorcoat and play lines will be added to the courts.
- Fencing: The project will also include the installation of new fencing and gates that will accommodate wheelchairs.
- Pickleball and tennis: The court striping will be modified to accommodate both pickleball and tennis.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Replace hazardous and aging tennis court and basketball surface and fencing. (The courts were originally constructed in 1972 and the township has resurfaced them with various repair methods numerous times, but they continue to fail.)
2. Maintain/rehabilitate the only tennis courts within Meridian Township's park system.
3. Improve the accessibility of the parks.
4. Modify courts to include pickleball, an up and coming sport that is being requested.
5. Improve the aesthetics of a popular (but aging) neighborhood park.

GRANT REQUEST

\$50,000, Land and Water Conservation Fund

PROJECT AMOUNT

\$100,000

SCOPE ITEMS FOR GRANT

Renovated tennis courts	\$67,000
Site preparation	\$ 6,000
Replace fencing	\$15,500
Engineering fee	\$ 2,000
Replace net and poles	\$ 2,000
Accessible pathway	\$ 6,000
Signage	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
TOTAL =	\$100,000

II. Public comment

None

III. Commissioners comment

Chair Wilson stated children have tried to play on these courts and they are not playable.

Director Maisner stated there is a loyal group of users of the tennis courts and they have inquired about resurfacing on numerous occasions. We are excited to also add pickle ball stripping which is becoming a very popular sport. Additional improvements to the Park currently include a new play structure and the Drain Commissioner's proposal of creating an open ditch drain to better accommodate water flow from surrounding neighborhoods. This new proposal will improve the vegetation, wildlife habitat and improve the trail system in the Park.

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway stated the current pathway is too steep a grade and the gate into the courts is too narrow. An asphalt tennis court has a life of 20 years and this court is much older. We will be following the method used by Michigan State University to pulverize and reseal the courts and they should last 20-25 years. Also, we are following the City of Lansing's lead to offer a shared use of the new courts with the combination of tennis and pickle ball.

VI. The public hearing closed 7:39 pm.

d. Ferguson Park Extension – Grant Submission

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. Commissioner Reports and Comments

None

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. February 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. February 20, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2015 AND FEBRUARY 20, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Former Park Commissioner Teri Banas; RE: Thank you

B. Commission Information

1. March Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: Feb 8: Meridian ice fishing derby set; Mall to host Chinese New Year event; Feb 15: Nature center hosts exercise classes;

preschool class explores science of rain; Feb 22: Join Harris Nature Center hunt for skunk cabbage; Harris Nature Center hosts wildlife identification; Nature center hosts exercise classes; preschool class explores science of rain; Attract birds, butterflies, with native plants; March 1: Legal Notice of 2015 DNR Grant Applications Public Hearing Notice; Snowman contest deadline March 6; Skunk cabbage at Harris Nature Center; Pre-school class explores rain

3. State Journal: Jan 31: Winter Wonderland features dog sledding, ice sculpture; Feb 9: 8 active date ideas for Valentine's Day (Harris Nature Center go cross-country skiing or snowshoeing; Meridian Township Ice Fishing Derby); Feb 10: Ingham County starts looking into parks millage spending
4. Capital Gains Media: March 4: Slowing but surely connecting parks and trails systems in Ingham County
5. Red Cedar Watershed 2014 Stream Monitoring Report

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

Commissioner McDonald thanked staff and Commissioners for their involvement in the Ingham County Trails Millage meetings. This will be a lengthy process to set up and there will be no more meetings until the consultant firm has been chosen to develop the plan.

Chair Wilson reported two long-standing volunteers at the Harris Nature Center Winter Wonderland event will be moving their dog sled team to South Carolina. They will be missed.

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

9. Director's Report

- Attended Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference on February 11-13 at the Lansing Center; it was also attended by Commissioner Stephens and McDonald and staff; excellent exhibit hall and presentation topics
- In the process of reviewing and interviewing candidates for summer employment; people may still apply on-line on the Township website
- New full-time opening in Parks and Grounds Maintenance; will be interviewing next week
- Met with Ingham County Parks & Recreation Director Tim Morgan, Ingham County Commissioner, Teri Banas, and Director of Engineering Ray Severy to discussed the new Trail and Park Millage and possible projects in Meridian Township

- In the beginning stages of creating a smart phone app in conjunction with the Township's GIS system for pathways and park amenities..
- The Commissioners interviewed five (5) consulting firms on the development of the Central Park Master Plan; this will be a great opportunity to work with local business, groups and residents to create a wonderful destination area.
- Conducted three (3) Grant Application public hearings earlier this evening; resolutions have been presented for action later in the meeting; the applications are due April 1
- The Okemos Road Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Bridge is being constructed to provide safe north/south access on Okemos Road over the Red Cedar River. Funding is provided by the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Millage and is scheduled for completion in late April.
- With the resignation of the Director of Engineering Ray Severy and the retirement of long-time employee Water and Sewer Superintendent Larry Ondrias, the Township has hired Derek Perry as the new Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works. He will start on Monday, March 16 and we are excited to have him join our team.

10. **New Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Towar Gardens Controlled Burn Request

Director Maisner reported the Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office is requesting to conduct a controlled burn in the rain gardens in Towar Park sometime in March or April, depending upon the weather. Controlled burning in these areas has been done since 2010 and have been very successful. They are proposing the same program as in years past and they work in conjunction with our Fire Department and a licensed contractor. This is a safe and controlled management measure of the rain gardens in this area.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSION MCDONALD SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS OFFICE TO CONDUCT CONTROLLED BURNING IN THE RAIN GARDENS NEAR SNELL-TOWAR RECREATION CENTER AS AN EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL MEASURE IN 2015. THE ICDC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING REQUIRED PERMITS AND FOR FOLLOWING STANDARD SAFETY MEASURES AND WILL INFORM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OF THE EXACT DATE AND TIME OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY. Voice vote. Motion passed.

b. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements

Chair Wilson stated representatives from the consultant team from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office (ICDC) offered a proposal to construct a daylighting drain improvement project through Hillbrook Park. The ICDC current have an easement for a pipe drain through the park but an

improvement is needed to address water flow and erosion issues. During the Work Session, the construction and placement of this project were discussed and Commissioners expressed the need to maintain a dry accessible pathway through the Park during high water times and with the present proposal, the pathway will need to be relocated. There is currently a 60 foot easement and ICDC are asking to relocate and increase the easement to 80 feet. The ICDC were asked to bring an updated proposal addressing the Commission's concerns of easement location and pathway location and accessibility to the next meeting for further consideration.

c. Central Park Master Plan Consultant Contract

Director Maisner stated on Friday, February 20, 2015, the Park Commission heard presentations from five (5) consulting firms on their qualifications to assist with the development of a master plan for Central Park.

- VIRIDIS Design Group Inc.
- Spicer Group
- O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.
- Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc.
- The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

After the presentations, the Commission voted to request proposals from the following two (2) firms with a Monday, March 9, 2015 deadline:

- VIRIDIS Design Group Inc.
- O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.

The Commissioners reviewed the proposals during their work session and found both firms to be well qualified to develop the master plan. Central Park is in the center of the Township, is adjacent to both commercial and residential uses and the Commission wants to make this a destination park thereby making public input a necessary component of the Master Plan. Both proposals came in within the estimated budget of \$16,000 which is shared between the General Fund and Park Millage funds. Both proposals were very well done but the Commissioners favored the public engagement proposal submitted by the O'Boyle firm.

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK AND ASSOCIATES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,450 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN FOR CENTRAL PARK WITH THE FUNDING BEING SHARED BETWEEN PARK MILLAGE AND GENERAL FUND

Roll Call:

AYES: Mike McDonald, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

d. 2015 Grant Submission Request

1) Meridian Riverfront Park/HNC Pavilion

The following resolution was moved by Chair Wilson and supported by Commissioner Jaramillo:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the acquisition and development of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Natural Resources Trust Fund program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is comprised of revenue generated from gas and mineral rights on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park improvement projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program for an estimated \$100,000 of improvements to Meridian Riverfront Park/Harris Nature Center consisting of a universally accessible pavilion facility and access sidewalks to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park improvements and development are supported by Township Board Policy and 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 10, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a universally accessible pavilion facility and access sidewalks in Meridian Riverfront Park/Harris Nature Center with an estimated total project cost of \$100,000 with a 50% local match of \$50,000 from the Township's Park Millage Fund

Roll Call:

AYES: Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo, Mike McDonald

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

2) North Meridian Road Park Pavilion

The following resolution was moved by Commissioner Jaramillo and supported by Chair Wilson:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Program is comprised of revenue generated from gas and mineral rights on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$100,000 of improvements to North Meridian Road Park consisting of a universally accessible pavilion facility and access sidewalks to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park improvements and development are supported by Township Board Policy and the 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 10, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for construction of a universally accessible pavilion facility with access sidewalks in North Meridian Road Park for an estimated project cost of \$100,000 with a 50% local match of \$50,000 from the Township's Park Millage Fund.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

3) Hillbrook Park Tennis Court Renovation

The following resolution was moved by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Chair Wilson:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the acquisition and development of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 50% of the total project cost funded through Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a Federal Grant Program consisting of revenues generated from offshore oil and gas leasing and managed by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park improvement projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Land and Water Conservation Fund program for an estimated \$100,000 of improvements to Hillbrook Park consisting of tennis court renovations and ADA access improvements to provide and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park improvements and development are supported by Township Board Policy and 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open for public review on March 10, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support the submission of a grant application to the to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund for tennis court renovations and ADA access improvements in Hillbrook Park with an estimated total project cost of \$100,000 with a 50% local match of \$50,000 from the Township's Park Millage Fund.

Roll Call:

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

4) Ferguson Park Extension - Acquisition

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

14. Final Comments

Parks and Land Management Coordinator showed the submissions to the 2nd Annual Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest. To see all of the submissions, please visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Winners will be announced later in the week.

15. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Saturday, March 21, April 4 & 18; 10am-2pm Meridian Mall
- c. Township Offices will close at 12 Noon on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.

16. Public Remarks

None

17. Closed Session

None

18. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

April 14, 2015

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
1. From: Lawrence Hennessey; 2013 and 2014
 2. From members of the Universal Access Advisory Board; RE: Letters of Support for the 2015 Grant Submissions
 - Donna Rose
 - Judy Linn
 - Chris M Wolfe
 - William Cleary
- B. Commission Information
1. April Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
 2. Parks and Recreation Department Quarterly Report
 3. Earth Week Community Clean-Up on April 25
 4. Towne Courier: **March 1:** 2015 DNR Grant Application Public Hearing Notice; **March 8:** Nature center hosts Chinese exercise classes; Joint Harris Nature Center for skunk cabbage; 2015 DNR Grant Application Public Hearing Notice; **March 15:** Harris Nature Center celebrates vernal equinox; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer; **March 22:** Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer; **March 29:** Learn how to design, maintain native plants; Nature Center to host nesting boxes seminar; Harris Center offers three-week photo class; Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer
 5. 2014/2015 Deer Management Program Year Four Summary
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response

2013 Michigan Bluebird Society End of Season Nesting Report		
Name: LAWRENCE HENNESSY		
Address: 4548 MANITOW DRIVE		
City: OKEMOS	State: MI	Zip: 48864
Email Address: HENLAR@SBCGLOBAL.NET		
County/State Where Your Boxes Are Located: MERIDIAN TWP., MI		
Total Number of Bluebird Nest Boxes Monitored: 40		# Trails: 2
Styles Of Nest Boxes Used (please indicate number of ea. used) 40		
PVC (Gilbertson):	Traditional: 40 (modified)	Gilwood:
X-Box	Peterson:	Other:
No. of Bluebird Nesting Attempts: 8		
No. of Successful Bluebird Nests: 6		
No. of Bluebird Eggs Laid: 30		
No. of Bluebird Young That Fledged: 23		
Other Species of Birds That Nested Successfully: 9 Tree Swallow nests, 7 successful, 44 eggs laid, 36 fledged. 2 wren nests.		
Comments: (include any unusual observations, experiences with predation, things that worked well, ideas, etc.) Numerous House Sparrow nests removed, no young fledged. With a large # of boxes in pairs, the sparrows kept coming back to the same boxes and didn't "evict" the swallows or bluebirds. Their nest eggs were promptly removed. In wooded areas, numerous House Wren "dummy" nests were removed. However, there were 2 nests that were completed & had eggs and I did not interfere with those nests as wrens are a native species. 2 boxes destroyed by vandals. Boxes will be moved away from brushy areas to prevent wren nesting.		

Instructions:

1. This form is only intended to collect data for nest boxes put out mainly to attract bluebirds. So, don't include other types of housing like wren or owl boxes.
2. Please fill out the form above and send it to MBS by October 15th.
3. You can either mail the form to us at: Michigan Bluebird Society, P.O. Box 2028, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2028 OR email the above information to: support@michiganbluebirds.org.
4. For mailing, either enclose this form in an envelope, OR fold it in 3 panels, tape shut, and address the opposite side. Affix first class postage and mail.
5. For information about how to monitor your nesting boxes, go to: www.michiganbluebirds.org/monitoring-forms.

2014 2013 Michigan Bluebird Society End of Season Nesting Report		
Name: LAWRENCE HENNESSY		
Address: 4548 MANITOW DRIVE		
City: OKEMOS	State: MI	Zip: 48864
Email Address: HENLAR@SBCGLOBAL.NET		
County/State Where Your Boxes Are Located: MERIDIAN TWP., MI		
Total Number of Bluebird Nest Boxes Monitored:		# Trails: 2
Styles Of Nest Boxes Used (please indicate number of ea. used) 40		
PVC (Gilbertson):	Traditional: 40 (modified)	Gilwood:
X-Box	Peterson:	Other:
No. of Bluebird Nesting Attempts: 11		
No. of Successful Bluebird Nests: 8		
No. of Bluebird Eggs Laid: 37		
No. of Bluebird Young That Fledged: 28		
Other Species of Birds That Nested Successfully: Tree Swallows - 8 nests NO SUCCESSFUL WREN NESTS THIS YEAR		
Comments: (include any unusual observations, experiences with predation, things that worked well, ideas, etc.) 24 boxes on the Sander Farm Township Natural Area. Much OPEN HABITAT, LOTS OF HOUSE SPARROW ATTEMPTS (NONE SUCCESSFUL) MINIMAL WREN ATTEMPTS, 7 Tree Swallow & 8 BB nests, 6 successful. 1 house destroyed by vandals. Tocoma Mills Natural Area Township park: 16 boxes, more wooded and brushy, 3 bluebird nests (2 successful), 1 tree swallow nest, NO ENGLISH SPARROWS BUT LOTS OF DUMMIE HOUSE WREN NESTS REMOVED, NO SUCCESSFUL HOUSE WREN NESTS THIS YEAR. TRADITIONAL BOXES USED AS A NUMBER WERE DONATED BY BOY SCOUTS. I may look at other types in the future		

Instructions:

1. This form is only intended to collect data for nest boxes put out mainly to attract bluebirds. So, don't include other types of housing like wren or owl boxes.
2. Please fill out the form above and send it to MBS by October 15th.
3. You can either mail the form to us at: Michigan Bluebird Society, P.O. Box 2028, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2028 OR email the above information to: support@michiganbluebirds.org.
4. For mailing, either enclose this form in an envelope, OR fold it in 3 panels, tape shut, and address the opposite side. Affix first class postage and mail.
5. For information about how to monitor your nesting boxes, go to: www.michiganbluebirds.org/monitoring-forms.

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS
ADVISORY BOARD
COMMENTS**

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

GRANT PROPOSAL 2015

Jane Greenway

From: Donna Rose <wild-rose@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:56 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: RE: Request for Comments on Park Development Projects (Hillbrook Park, Harris Nature Center, and North Meridian Road Park)

Dear Jane,

I love the projects listed below. I would like to see more marketing so that the public is more aware of their existence. Perhaps this spring you could have the City Pulse or LSJ do a nice article on the work that has already been done and the work which is planned. Such an article will serve two purposes, it will advertise our accessible parks to people, especially to citizens who are disabled and/or their parents and don't know this access exists, and second it will let other communities, not doing this, to think more about accessible outdoor venues. Plus people love reading these type of stories in the papers and such marketing will not cost the Twp money.

I am blind and cannot see the photos, so I was just wondering, is there an accessible way to get to the proposed project at Harris Nature Center?

In Hillbrook Park the basketball court is a half court, so I was just wondering if there is enough room for two wheelchair teams to play against each other there, or is this meant more for just practice?

I really have no comments on the North Meridian pavilion. It sounds good.

Thanks for your work on these projects. I appreciate it.

Blessings,
Donna Rose, LMSW

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...

It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Vivian Green, R&B Singer/Songwriter

From: Judy Linn [<mailto:jlinnthekeeper@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 7:34 AM

To: Jane Greenway

Subject: Re: universal access

Universal Access would be not only a wonderful addition but a real necessity to a very popular park in Meridian Township. Persons of all ages and physical abilities should be able to participate in the program's offered. As an older long term handicapped resident I want to be a part of the many inter generational activities.

Please do not leave us on the sidelines as we age out with only memories of past fun in our community. Usership will only increase at Harris Nature Center if we are awarded the necessary funding. We need your help so please provide us access.

Judy Linn

Sent from my iPad

Jane Greenway

From: chrismwolfe@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 7:49 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Re: Request for Comments on Park Development Projects (Hillbrook Park, Harris Nature Center, and North Meridian Road Park)

Hi Jane,

Here are some items to consider regarding the proposals: These are what Federal parks adhere to per ADA guidelines - not that we are bound by same rules; but gives us food for thought anyway!

For the North Meridian Road and Harris Nature Center Parks proposed pavillions -
Space requirements for wheelchair accessibility - Bottom Right picture

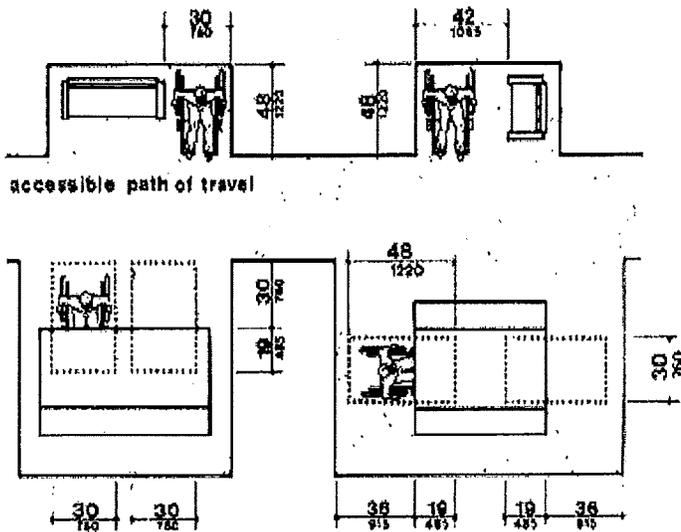


Fig. 45
Minimum Clearances for Seating and Tables

Height requirements for tables:

- The height of accessible tables should be from 28"-34" above the finished floor/ground
- For knee clearance table should be at least 27" high; with space underneath 30" wide and at 17-25" deep

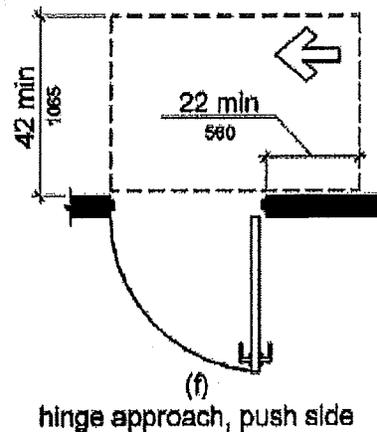
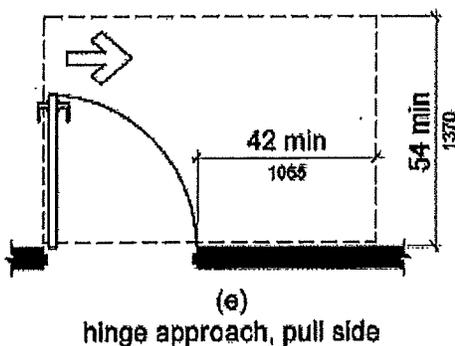
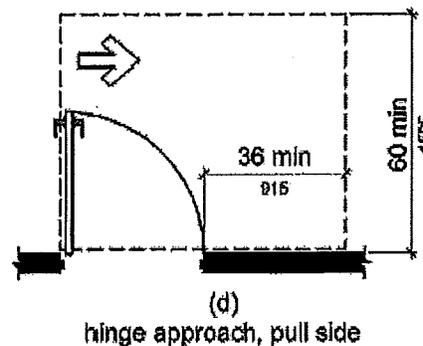
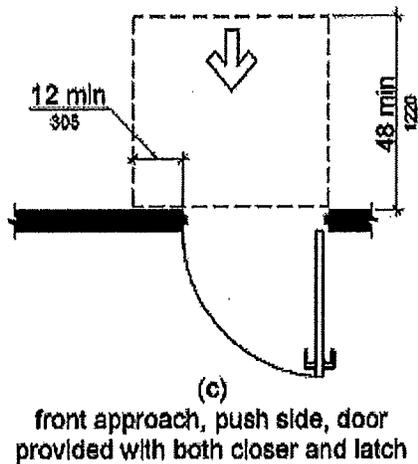
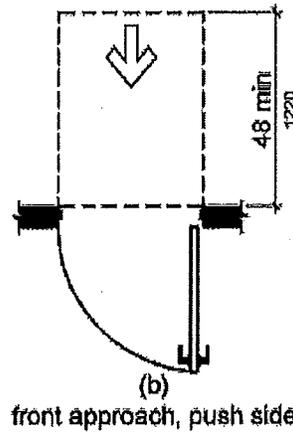
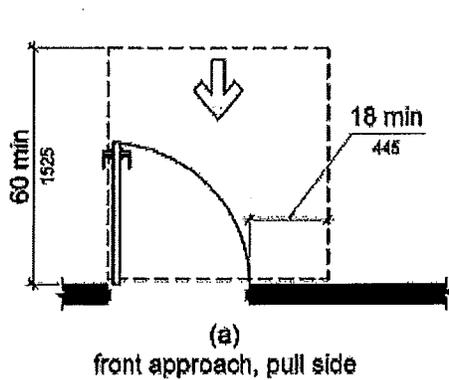
For all accessible pathways -

- Any change in level of 1/4" or less may be left vertical and without edge treatment
- Change in level of 1/4"-1/2" should be beveled with slope no greater than 1:2
- Changes in level greater than 1/2" should be accomplished by ramp built in accordance with ADA guidelines.
- If gratings are located in walking surfaces, then they should have spaces no greater than 1/2" wide in one direction. If gratings have elongated openings, then they should be

placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.

For Tennis Court Resurfacing project:

If there is an opening in the fencing to allow wheelchair access it should be at least 32" wide. If there is an actual gate that will have to be opened, below are the clearances and space needed depending on which way gate would swing. Latch on gate should be shape that is easy to grasp with one hand and does not require tight grasping, tight pinching or twisting of the wrist to operate. Latch should be no higher than 48" from the ground.



It is great to see Meridian township making an effort to upgrade our park systems with accessibility for everyone in mind!

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance with any of these or other proposals!

Chris Wolfe

Jane Greenway

From: William Cleary <william.cleary1896@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 3:55 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Re: Request for Comments on Park Development Projects (Hillbrook Park, Harris Nature Center, and North Meridian Road Park)

THANK YOU for requesting my input in programmes scheduled for the MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP area. Here are some of my thoughts....

PATHS should be, at least, SIX (6) feet wide [best if EIGHT (8) feet wide} and constructed of ASPHALT. (Reason for asphalt: easier to repair easier to maintain so that a liquid petro coating can be sprayed over the surface, if needed. As level as possible, especially for wheelchairs. If a grade is necessary it should be a slight grade as possible. Attempt to bypass large trees and ALWAYS check on root(s) so that the walkways are not damaged by upheaving of the roots. NEVER add colouring to the asphalt as this can cause (create) slippery surfaces to the users. If markers are necessary place them AWAY from the pathways and be FIRMLY anchored.

My knowledge is based on years of experience in the Chicago, Racine (WI) and Kenosha (WI) along with the mapping of the 64 mile bicycle pathway in Milwaukee County. Presently, as I previously stated, I am a volunteer on the Lansing (now Ingham County) Riverwalks. (We will start patrolling on Friday 1 May....weather permitting)

Again, THANK YOU for including my thoughts and ideas. I believe a project of a pathway, along the RED CEDAR RIVER, through MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP from the CAMPUS AREA of MSU to WILLIAMSTON, is both exciting and fun planning and projecting.

Respectfully submitted
BILL CLEARY
19 March, 2015

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

April Calendar of Events



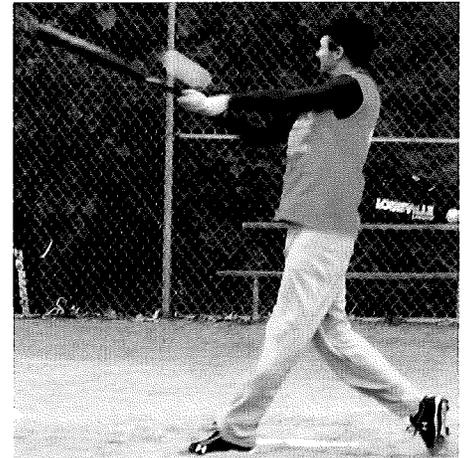
April 2 – Preschool Science Exploration/Delightful Ducks

April 2 – Junior and Adult Golf Clinics at Hawk Hollow
registration deadline

April 4 – Winter Farmers
Market

April 10 – Playmakers Kids'
Running Club registration
deadline

April 10 – Adult



Spring/Summer Softball Leagues registration deadline

April 10 – Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center

April 10 – Weekday Science Program/Wonderful
Waterfowl

April 11 – Discover Bird Watching

April 12 – Song Bird Nest Box Workshop

April 13 – My Cub and I: Nature for Toddlers

April 13 – Timber Tots

April 14 – My Cub and I: Nature for Toddlers

April 16 – Photography Class with Ron St. Germain

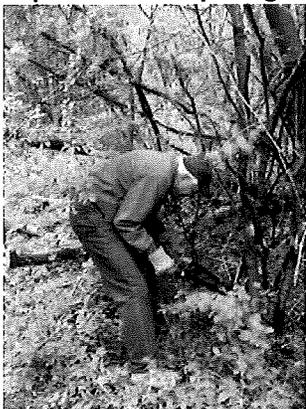
April 16 – Chipmunk Story Time/Listen to Raindrops

April 18 – Winter Farmers Market

April 18 – Junior Girl Scout Flowers Legacy Badge

April 18 – HNC Stewardship Mornings

April 19 – Spring Discovery Walk



April 21 – Weekday Wildflower
Walks

April 23 – FHM Lecture Series

April 25 – Earth Day Community Clean-Up/Central & Nancy Moore
Parks

April 25 - Recycle Rama

April 25 – Introduction to Nordic Walking

April 25 – Babes in the Woods Campfire

April 25 - Recycling at Chippewa

April 26 – Bird Watching in Our Parks/Ted Black Woods

April 26 – Sunday Wildflower Walks

Questions, call Meridian Township Parks & Recreation at (517) 853-4600



PARKS & RECREATION

1. Park Commission:

The Park Commission met on January 13, February 10, February 20, and March 10, 2015.

Topics:

- Passed a resolution of appreciation for former Park Commissioner Teri Banas
- Interviewed prospective candidates and recommended Phil Deschaine to fill the vacant Park Commission seat through the end of the current term.
- Monitored meetings regarding the new Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage.
- Renewed the Lease and Open Space Development Rights Easement for Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area with Dr. Maureen Sander through February, 2025
- Approved submitting three applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for new pavilions in North Meridian Road Park and Harris Nature Center and for tennis court renovations at Hillbrook Park.
- Interviewed and selected consulting firm to lead the process for developing a Master Plan for Central Park. The contract was awarded to O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$14,450.
- Received a presentation from the Ingham County Drain Commission's Office on proposed drain improvements through Hillbrook Park. A new easement will be necessary to complete the project. Additional information is being provided for the April 14 regular meeting.
- Re-elected Todd Wilson as Chair and elected Mike McDonald as Vice Chair for 2015
- Re-appointed Mark Stephens as the Commission's liaison to the Land Preservation Advisory Board

2. Administration:

- The 64-page Family Fun Guide is an annual publication that was completed and mailed in early January to 22,000 residential, PO boxes and business addresses in the Township. The document is also available in electronic form and available on the Townships website.
- Conducted the third annual Chinese New Year Celebration in the Meridian Mall on Saturday, February 21. Estimated 4,000 in attendance. The event consisted of a Lion and Dragon Parade, entertainment, and cultural education and activity tables. Meridian EDC provided a \$1,000 sponsorship to fund use of the Mall facility. The program was managed in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Chinese Association.
- The indoor Meridian Farmers' Market was open on the first and third Saturdays in January, February and March from 10am-2pm with approximately 25 vendors each market day.
- Met with EDC members Marsha Madle and Dave Ledebuhr, Market Manager Christine Miller, and Meridian Mall Manager, Larry Parsons to discuss options for a future farmers' market location. The Mall has expressed interest in continuing discussions.
- Continued planning for and fundraising for Celebrate Downtown Okemos scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 10am-11pm.
- Township Board Trustee, Angela Wilson donated \$200 (her salary as a trustee) toward new landscaping at North Meridian Road Park.

3. Parks and Land Management

- **Land Preservation**

- ✓ Visited Northwest Land Preserve (Towar Woods) with LPAB members and Dr. Donald Dickmann, professor emeritus from MSU Forestry, to assess the re-forested area of the preserve and to develop a plan for weed management
- ✓ Met with resident, Leslie Kuhn, to discuss management plans for the land preserves
- ✓ Hired intern, Alex Zegarzewski to assist with invasive species management in the land preserves and parks

- **Deer Management**

- ✓ Completed extended hunting season from January 1- February 28, 2015 (9 deer were harvested)
- ✓ Provided final information to Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH pays for the deer processing \$2,000 total for 2014 and extended hunt)
- ✓ Distributed venison to Haslett Food Bank
- ✓ Received final numbers of car/deer collisions for 2014. There were 137 collisions in 2014: 180 reported collisions in 2013.
- ✓ Provided the City of Ann Arbor information relative to deer management
- ✓ Presented a session on Meridian's Deer Management program at the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association's annual conference at the Lansing Center

- **Parks**

- ✓ **Central Park:**

- Prepared Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request-for-Proposals (RFP) for design work of the Central Park Master Plan. Interviewed five firms and evaluated proposals. Awarded bid to O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates.
- Capitol City Renegades Disc Golf Club conducted a preliminary walk in the park to scope out possible locations for disc golf

- ✓ **Towner Road Park:**

- Met with Viridis Design Group to discuss proposal for construction oversight for phase one of park development
- Helped facilitate designation of 1.58 acres of adjacent land as parkland attached to Towner Road Park.

- ✓ **Nancy Moore Park:** Solicited and received bids for safety fencing at the ball diamonds.

- ✓ **Red Cedar Water Trail Project:** Met with MSU students to provide guidance for a project to create signage along our Red Cedar River Trail. Also provided materials for the Quiet Water Symposium

- ✓ **Historical Village:**

- Met with Meridian Garden Club to discuss replacement of picket fence behind farm house; discuss roles of the team working on landscaping in the Village
- Finalized plans for the monarch butterfly sign that will be placed in the Claire Twohy garden

- Worked with future eagle scout Stephen Harrelson on his plans to build a split-rail fence near the log cabin in the Village
- Two volunteers spent two hours spreading mulch on the Mary Helmbrecht butterfly/pollinator garden that was planted by Haslett Schoolchildren in fall of 2014

✓ **Grants**

- Submitted grant requests to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the following projects:
 - Meridian Riverfront Park/Harris Nature Center: Accessible picnic pavilion and accessible pavement (50k request, 100k project cost)
 - North Meridian Road Park: Accessible picnic pavilion and accessible pavement (50k request, 100k project cost)
 - Hillbrook Park: Accessible Tennis Court Renovation (50k request, 100k project cost)
 - Monarch Butterfly plots: Applied for a grant from the Monarch Watch organization in Kansas for two flats of swamp milkweed that will be planted in Hartrick Park and the Harris Nature Center to attract monarch butterflies (resident and volunteer, Dave Reicosky, completed the application forms and encouraged us to apply and will lead the projects)

4. Recreation

- Family Winter Fun Weekends in January and February; events included Howl at the Moon; cross country ski and snow shoe classes, swimming at Goldfish Swimming Scholl and Michigan Athletic Club, bowling at City Limits East, target practicing at MSU Demmer Center, moonlight sledding, skiing and snowshowing, Polar Bear 5K Run, Winter Wonderland, Ice Fishing Derby, Winter Kickball Tournament – total of approximately 2,080 participated in 23 events
- Completed
 - ✓ Haslett Basketball K-6th grade with 269 participants
 - ✓ Williamston Basketball K-8th grade with 307 participants
- Current registrations
 - ✓ Haslett Baseball/Softball/Tball K-8th grade with 183 participants
 - ✓ Williamston Baseball/Softball/Tball K-8th grade with 225 participants
 - ✓ Okemos Baseball/Softball K-8th grade with 203 participants
 - ✓ Okemos Spring Soccer K-8th grade with 488 participants
 - ✓ Adult Softball with 14 teams
- Planning for 2015 Summer Playground Program at Snell Towar Recreation Center; both staff members from last year are returning; Received a grant for \$2,500 from the Capital Region Community Foundation to support the program. TC3 applied for the funds.
- 2nd annual Snowman/Snow sculpture Contest – top five (5) are 1st Place “Taun Taun” (Star Wars figure); 2nd Place “Olaf the Snowman”; 3rd Place “Triceratops”; 4th Place “Snowysaurus”; Most Meridian Spirit “Mr and Mrs Snowman” which was built in Forest Hills Natural Area
- Sporties for Shorties – four (4) classes; 54 participants

5. Harris Nature Center

Attendance: January-March, 2015:

- 1,427 drop-in visitors to the Nature Building

- 764 children attended School Programs
- 890 children & adults received Outreach Programs
- 171 children participated in Public Nature Programs
- 274 people attended Adult and Family Nature Programs
- 600 people enjoyed the Winter Wonderland event
- 24 people rented/used the nature building for a class/meeting

Naturalist Staff Notes:

- Staff taught 94 programs during the January to March quarter.
- Cross country skis and snowshoes were rented 314 times over the winter season for 612 hours of outdoor fun!
- Staff sent out 55 press releases on upcoming HNC programs.
- HNC Facebook summary through 3-31-15:

• Total Likes	• 989
• Highest Reach	• 3,144 on Jan 31

- Staff posted 65 times on Facebook and 39 times on Twitter during the quarter.
- Staff was interviewed 12 times by various media, resulting in publicity for HNC in multiple outlets, including:
 - Monthly interviews about upcoming programs on WLNZ radio: Coffee Break Show.
 - HNC featured in two major LSJ articles.
 - HNC included in several reports on Meridian News.
 - Featured in Midwest Radio PSA on spring that was heard on 4 different radio stations.
- Created and mailed Winter Newsletter.
- Completed a new Habitat Exhibit Interpretive Sign.
- Designed a new Nature Connection Summer Camp brochure.
- Staff is working with 2 student groups from MSU on class planning projects at HNC: grasslands restoration and Nature Exploration Area water feature.
- Submitted annual reports to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- Naturalist Kati Adams represented HNC at the National Association for Interpretation Regional Conference.
- The HNC Foundation received a \$10,000 pledge from the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club and won the Flagstar Bank \$5,000 Makeover Contest. These funds will be used for constructing the Gathering Place, an outdoor education area to be located within the Nature Exploration Area (NEA). They are currently preparing a grant application to submit to the Granger Foundation for funding Phase 3 of the NEA.
- All nature trails are open from dawn to dusk for walking. Please remember that bikes should be kept off of muddy trails to protect the trail integrity. The spring nature building open hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm. There is a porta-john available when the building is closed.

6. Meridian Senior Center

- A. Events and Programs – held 730 events with 3,700 attendees
- 181 attended a variety of 92 events/activities such as Arts, Clubs, Genealogy, Computer Club, etc.
 - 740 attended 25 lunch dates

- 843 attended 148 exercise classes
 - 1,081 attended 186 game event offerings such as bingo, bridge, chess, etc.
 - 67 attended 18 health screening events such as blood pressure, chair massage, footcare, etc.
 - 19 attended 60 Resource Sharing events
 - Loaned out equipment on 42 occasions
 - 202 attended 34 media/cultural events, such as Friday Flicks, Documentary Monday, etc.
 - 149 attended 50 social/special events
 - 195 attended eight (8) tax assistance dates
 - 21 attended three (3) Advisory Board Meeting
 - 10 attended one (1) off-site event
- B. Volunteers
- 24 volunteers assisted the Center for a total of 581 volunteer hours
- C. Professional Development/Networking
- Attended 13 networking events

7. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division

From January – March, had 12 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

40-50 cubic yards of Christmas trees were chipped and removed from Nancy Moore Park parking area.

Work Orders Completed:

- Parks: 33
- Pathways: 8
- Land Management: 1
- Deer Management/Removal: 4

Assisted staff with set-up and clean-up of eight (8) special events

Met with Friends of the Library to discuss construction of a memorial for Joan Smith at Okemos Library

Met with Meridian Garden Club representatives on maintenance issues for the Township gardens

Met with Victoria Voges, Nokomis Learning Center, about cleaning up the garden areas around the entrance and building

Began spring preparations of athletic field

Closed North Meridian Road Park restroom due to damage caused by frozen septic tank

Removed excess snow in pathway created by residents on Hatch and Cornell

Inventory, repaired, stored and ordered snow removal equipment

Inventoried, repaired and ordered spring parks and grounds maintenance equipment

Inventoried and repaired park picnic tables by replacing weathered and warped boards

Removed snow and ice from Township facilities; restocked salt barrels at crosswalks

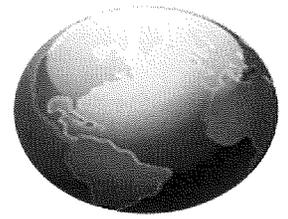
Cold patched various pathway locations and Township lots

Removed trash and restocked dog waste receptacles in 18 Parks and at the Cemetery

Continued with off-road trail maintenance, removal of dead trees in building and park locations

Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs and water department with main breaks

Hung announcement banners on Township Hall site

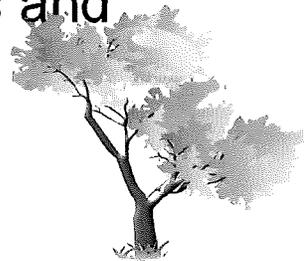


Meridian Township's
Earth Week Community Clean-up!

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner! Help celebrate Earth Week by volunteering to help clean your local neighborhood parks and trails!



Saturday April 25th!!!
9:00am to 12:00pm



Come with Family and Friends!

It's your choice! You can help do your part at ANY Meridian Township Park or Trail!

Great way to help shape your community!

Meet at Central Park Farmers' Market Pavilion

Volunteer to pick-up litter and stack branches in lawn areas or remove litter and branches obstructing trails. Please contact Alex Zegarzewski at 517-853-4600 and Jane Greenway at 517-853-4610 with any questions or to be assigned to a park/trail of your choice.

Pizza will be provided at Nancy Moore Park to all volunteers after the event!

Legal Notice

2015 DNR Grant Applications

Notice is hereby given that the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, to hear comments from all persons interested in the proposed 2015 grant applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport. The following projects are proposed for grant applications:

- Pavilion-North Meridian Road Park, 5191 N. Meridian Road, Williamston
- Tennis court renovation- Hillbrook Park, 1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
- Pavilion-Meridian Riverfront Park Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos
- Land acquisition- Ferguson Park Extension, Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan

Information may be examined at the Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Questions, call (517) 853-4600.

TC-1183045

3/1,8/15

Legal Notice

2015 DNR Grant Applications

Notice is hereby given that the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, to hear comments from all persons interested in the proposed 2015 grant applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport. The following projects are proposed for grant applications:

- Pavilion-North Meridian Road Park, 5191 N. Meridian Road, Williamston
- Tennis court renovation- Hillbrook Park, 1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
- Pavilion-Meridian Riverfront Park Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos
- Land acquisition- Ferguson Park Extension, Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan

Information may be examined at the Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Questions, call (517) 853-4600.

TC-1183045

3/1,8/15

Nature center hosts Chinese exercise classes

Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held on Mondays at 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning March 2 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$64/8-week class or \$10/person/week for drop-ins. There will not be class on March 9 and April 13. Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866 for more information.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us.

Harris Nature Center celebrates vernal equinox

The first day of spring, also known as the vernal equinox is a day that many people dream of all winter. On this long-awaited day, enjoy the warmth of a campfire and a program on spring at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, Saturday, March 21 at 7 p.m. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 349-3866.

Join Harris Nature Center hunt for skunk cabbage

Join the park naturalist at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, Sunday March 15 at 3 p.m. for a guided walk to look for the early-blooming Skunk Cabbage plant and other natural phenomena. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866.

Kids can make Nature Connection this summer

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road is hosting "Make a Nature Connection" this summer. It is a variety of camps for toddlers through eighth graders beginning June 16 and running through Aug. 7. This year there will be one-day camps, two-day camps and four-day camps. The fees vary, depending on the length of the camp, but all campers will receive a camp tee shirt. Participants can receive an "early bird" discount by registering before June 1.

Families can choose between one-day, two-day or four-day camps. Many camps include lunch with the counselors as well. Each week there are different camp topics available for preschool through sixth grade campers. A full description of the Nature Connection Camp is available at www.meridian.mi.us or people can call the nature center at 517.349.3866 to receive a camp brochure. Students going into eighth grade and above are invited to volunteer as Assistant Camp Counselors.

For a registration form or more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517-349-3866.

Kids can make Nature Connection this summer

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road is hosting "Make a Nature Connection" this summer. It is a variety of camps for toddlers through eighth graders beginning June 16 and running through Aug. 7. This year there will be one-day camps, two-day camps and four-day camps. The fees vary, depending on the length of the camp, but all campers will receive a camp tee shirt. Participants can receive an "early bird" discount by registering before June 1.

Families can choose between one-day, two-day or four-day camps. Many camps include lunch with the counselors as well. Each week there are different camp topics available for preschool through sixth grade campers. A full description of the Nature Connection Camp is available at www.meridian.mi.us or people can call the nature center at 517.349.3866 to receive a camp brochure. Students going into eighth grade and above are invited to volunteer as Assistant Camp Counselors. For a registration form or more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517-349-3866.

Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township Thursday, April 2, 1 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Delightful Ducks. The program is designed for 4-5 year old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 349-3866. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Kids can make Nature Connection this summer

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road is hosting "Make a Nature Connection" this summer. It is a variety of camps for toddlers through eighth graders beginning June 16 and running through Aug. 7. This year there will be one-day camps, two-day camps and four-day camps. The fees vary, depending on the length of the camp, but all campers will receive a camp tee shirt. Participants can receive an "early bird" discount by registering before June 1.

Families can choose between one-day, two-day or four-day camps. Many camps include lunch with the counselors as well. Each week there are different camp topics available for preschool through sixth grade campers. A full description of the Nature Connection Camp is available at www.meridian.mi.us or people can call the nature center at 517.349.3866 to receive a camp brochure. Students going into eighth grade and above are invited to volunteer as Assistant Camp Counselors. For a registration form or more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517-349-3866.

Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township Thursday, April 2, 1 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Delightful Ducks. The program is designed for 4-5 year old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 349-3866. For more information about this and other programs

offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Learn how to design, maintain native plants

Learn how to design and maintain a native garden at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m. The price of the class is \$15 per person. For more information and a registration form, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Nature Center to host nesting boxes seminar

Many of our favorite song birds can be attracted to our backyards, especially if a nest box is provided. Build your own box at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, Sunday April 12, 3 p.m. Nest box kits are \$20 (\$12 for a robin shelf) and the event is free. For more information and to reserve a box, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866.

Song bird enthusiast Gene Wasserman prepares the nest box kits ahead of time. He will also help people to put them together and share his knowledge of attracting song birds to our backyards. Participants must reserve their box ahead and specify a blue-bird/song bird box, wren box or robin shelf.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Harris Center offers three week photo class

When the sunlight is reflecting through the leaves or your kids are romping in a meadow of daisies, pull out your camera and capture those moments. If you would like to become more comfortable with your camera, join award winning photographer Ron St. Germain at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road for a 3-week photography class held Wednesdays, April 15-29, 6:30-9 p.m. Also included is an optional outdoor shoot on Saturday April 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There is a \$55 fee for this 3-week workshop. For more information and a registration form, contact them at 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

TO: Meridian Township Board

FROM: Jane Greenway
Jane Greenway, Parks and Land
Management Coordinator

DATE: March 31, 2015

RE: **2014/2015 Deer Management Program - Year Four Summary**

February 28, 2015 concluded the fourth year of Meridian Township's deer management program. In 2014, the program was expanded in an attempt to make a larger impact on the local deer population. In addition, the Township applied for and received special permission to conduct an out-of-season archery harvest in January and February of 2015. These expansion efforts resulted in a total of **159 deer harvested** during the 2014/2015 management program.

The number of reported deer/car collisions is also going down. There were 137 reported deer collisions in 2014, which is a decrease of 43 collisions from 2013.

I will be in attendance at the April 7, 2015 Township Board meeting to answer any questions regarding future deer management efforts.

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief David Hall
FROM: Lieutenant Greg Frenger
DATE: March 30, 2015
RE: Deer Involved Collision Data

The below data was taken from the MSP "Traffic Crash Reporting System - Crash Statistics Report Selection Criteria." The site had previously reported that the statistics were incomplete due to an issue with the scanning system and an upgrade from Windows XP on the MSP Computers. I received notification that the problem at MSP has been resolved.

Statistics are from the MSP Traffic Crash Reporting System, Crash Statistics Report

Searched for County = Ingham City/Township = Meridian Twp or Williamstown Twp

Date Range = 01/01/2014 To 12/31/2014 Special Circumstances = Deer

This report was generated on 3/30/2015.

	Meridian Township			Williamstown Township		
Year	Injury Involved	No Injury Involved	Total	Injury Involved	No Injury Involved	Total
2007	2	157	159	1	146	147
2008	4	136	140	5	109	114
2009	1	151	152	2	66	68
2010	1	137	138	0	50	50
2011	2	150	152	1	69	70
2012	2	151	153	0	70	70
2013	4	176	180	1	72	73
2014	4	133	137	2	68	70
Average	2.86	170.14	173.00	1.71	92.86	94.57



Meridian Township Deer Management - Summary

2014 Regular Season (Oct – Dec) & 2015 Special Season (Jan – Feb)



	TOTAL	ANTLERLESS	ANTLERED
1 - Northwest Land Preserve	12	10	2
2 - Northridge Land Preserve	0		
3 - Forest Grove Land Preserve	3	3	
4 - Meridian Transfer Station	5	5	
5 - Meridian Central Wetland Preserve	3	2	1
6 - Hubbell Land Preserve	8	8	
7 - Central Meridian Uplands Land Preserve	2	2	
8 - Central Park	21	19	2
9 - Tihart/Cornell Wetland Land Preserve	2	2	
10 - Davis/Foster Land Preserve	12	11	1
11 - Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve	3	2	1
12 - Central Park Drive/Okemos Rd	4	3	1
13 - Ted Black Woods	6	4	2
14 - Southwest Meridian Uplands Land Preserve	7	7	
15 - Sower Woods Land Preserve	2	2	
16 - Red Cedar Natural Area	8	8	
17 - Meridian Riverfront Park	8	7	1
18 - Red Cedar River East Land Preserve	2	2	
19 - Towner Road Park	1	1	
20 - Lake Lansing Park North (Ingham County)	15	13	2
21 - Ingham County Farm (Ingham County)	12	10	2
TOWNSHIP & COUNTY PROPERTY TOTAL	128	113	15
ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND TOTAL	22	20	2
TOTAL	159	142	17

	Total Hunters	Properties Hunted	Deer Harvested	Reported Deer-Car Collisions
2011	25	7	43	152
2012	50	18	90	153
2013	60	20	127	180
2014/ 2015	73/30	21/19	150/9 = 159	137

1,650 pounds of venison donated through Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger, which is the equivalent of 8,250 meals.



Area Name	Acreage	Area Name	Acreage
1 Northwest Land Preserve	125	11 Red Cedar Glen Preserve	14
2 Northridge Land Preserve	25	12 Central Park Drive/Okemos Road (SE Corner)	28.5
3 Forest Grove Land Preserve	25	13 Ted black Woods Park	74
4 Meridian Transfer Station Property	50.6	14 Southwest Meridian Uplands Land Preserve	60
5 Meridian Central Wetland Land Preserve	25	15 Sower Woods Land Preserve	18
6 Hubbel Land Preserve	58	16 Red Cedar Natural Area	56
7 Central Meridian Uplands Land Preserve	60	17 Meridian Riverfront Park	204.5
8 Central Park	237	18 Red Cedar River East Land Preserve	25
9 Tihart/Cornell Wetland Land Preserve	21	19 Towner Road Park	22
10 Davis/Foster Land Preserve	109	20 Lake Lansing Park North	360

Meridian Township 2014 Proposed Deer Management Areas